Conference of NRIs

†1824. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a Conference of Non-Resident Indians held recently in Delhi, the subjects such as dual citizenship, making a congenial atmosphere of liberal economy and benefiting from it, had been discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Non-Resident Indians have made suggestions for overcoming administrative hassles and red-tapism in disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) During the fourth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas organized from 7th—9th January, 2006 at Hyderabad (and not in Delhi), a wide range of issues was covered including Diaspora partnership in healthcare, Remittance Services, Knowledge Networks, Culture, Overseas employment, Diaspora Youth and Gender issues, Opportunities in Education, Assisted living, Diaspora Philanthropy, Diaspora and political discourse, Communal Harmony and Secularism etc.

The Overseas Citizenship Scheme of India was launched by PM by which Persons of Indian origin of all countries except Pakistan and Bangladesh who fulfill certain conditions, are eligible to apply and become Overseas Citizens of India (OCI). OCIs are entitled to multiple-entry, multi-purpose, life long visas with no requirement of registration with police.

A more liberation Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana-2006 for the benefit of the Overseas Indian Workers was launched. So also an easy to use Integrated Electronic Remittance facility. This new facility, offered by the UTI Bank in association with Doha Bank, combines the virtues of speed, economy and convenience and is expected to be fully operational from the next financial year.

A MoU was signed between the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and American Association of Physicians of Indian origin in healthcare in rural areas.

(c) and (d) No, do not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.